

IN THE CLAIMS:

1-16. (Canceled).

17. (Previously Presented) A method of placing the distal end of an ultrasound catheter at a desired location inside a vessel, comprising:

- providing a sheath having an elongate body that has a lumen and a distal end;
- providing a guidewire;
- extending the ultrasound catheter over the guidewire through the lumen of the sheath; and
- extending the sheath through the lumen of a guide catheter.

18. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 17, further including:  
advancing the sheath independently beyond the distal end of the ultrasound catheter.

19. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 17, further including:  
retracting the sheath proximal from the distal end of the ultrasound catheter.

20. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 17, further including:  
torquing the sheath to redirect the distal end of the sheath.

21. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 17, wherein the elongate body comprises a main shaft member and a distal shaft member, further including:  
forming the main shaft member in an outer polymeric material having a reinforcing layer embedded therein.

22. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 17, further including:  
providing an inner wall of the lumen of the sheath with a lubricious polymeric material.

23. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 21, further including:  
providing the distal shaft member with a smaller outer diameter than the main shaft member.

24. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 21, further including:  
forming the distal shaft member in a polymeric material that is free of any reinforcements.

25. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 21, further including:  
providing the material of the distal shaft member with the same hardness as the material of the main shaft member.

26. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 17, further including:  
providing an outer surface of the elongate body with a lubricious coating.

27. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 17, further including:  
angling the distal end of the elongate body by an angle of between 10 degrees and 90 degrees.